

## Nine majors selected for promotion

Nine 48th Fighter Wing majors were selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel. The calendar 1997 Central Lieutenant Colonel Board selected 1,292 majors for promotion Air Force wide. The board convened July 21 and the list of promoted officers was released Thursday.

Liberty Wing selectees are majors:  
Joseph P. Breen, 48th Operations Group  
Larry A. Cross, 492nd Fighter Squadron  
James E. Dennis, 494th Fighter Squadron  
Mark P. Fitzgerald, 493rd Fighter Squadron  
Norman W. Reece, 494th FS  
Russell Sackett, 48th Operations Support Squadron  
Marc A. Luiken, 48th OG  
Mark A. Miller, 493rd FS  
Fowler Ragland, 48th OG

The statistical results for in-the-promotion zone are:

□ 1,163 majors selected for lieutenant colonel from 1,845 considered for a 63 percent select rate.

□ Pilot select rate was 71.7 percent, navigators 59.2 percent, non-rated operations 57.7 percent and mission support 61.1 percent.

Selection statistics above-the-promotion zone are:

□ 33 majors selected for lieutenant colonel from 960 considered for a 3.4 percent select rate.

□ Pilot select rate was 4.3 percent, navigators 5.3 percent, non-rated operations 2.9 percent and mission support 2.6 percent.

Selection statistics below-the-promotion zone are:

□ 96 majors selected for lieutenant colonel from 4,061 considered for a 2.4 percent select rate:

□ Pilot select rate was 3.6 percent, navigators 1.3 percent, non-rated operations 2.9 percent and mission support 1.8 percent.

## USAFE stands down for flight safety

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) – Training flights and some operational missions will not occur throughout USAFE as the Air Force observes a flight safety day today.

Secretary of Defense William Cohen ordered a 24-hour safety stand down of training flights for each U.S. military service after a string of military aviation mishaps. The purpose of the stand down is to give those who fly and maintain U.S. military aircraft time to focus on that goal – making flying as safe as possible.

The Liberty Wing will observe the flight safety day today.

All USAFE routine training, exercise and demonstration flight activities will be canceled to allow every unit to focus on ways to identify, assess and offset the inherent risks of aviation. The stand down will also affect operational flights that can be rescheduled without mission impact. Fighter and tanker/trans-

port missions in support of Operation Joint Guard in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Operation Northern Watch are not affected by the stand down. Crews that fly on Friday will be given the opportunity to participate in stand down day activities either before or after Friday's command-wide stand down.

The Air Force has made continued progress in aviation safety over the past several years. Fiscal year 1996 was the safest on record for total number of Class A mishaps, those accidents involving any of these conditions: loss of life or aircraft or at least \$1 million in damages.

USAFE has exceeded even that record with only one Class A mishap this fiscal year. That mishap occurred Aug. 6, 1997 when an F-15E assigned to the 48th Fighter Wing, RAF Lakenheath, sustained engine damage. Although the aircraft did not crash, the damage classified it a Class A mishap.

## Quick thinking employee saves child's life

By SSgt. Jody Clor  
100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

An unforgettable act of kindness is forever etched into the memories of several Team Mildenhall and Lakenheath members.

While visiting a Lakenheath insurance office with her parents, a toddler nearly choked to death on a piece of candy before an insurance saleswoman rushed to her side and performed the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging the candy from the blocked air passage.

Rebecca Sugden's Sept. 8 was already going to be a little special. She has worked for the company for one year and was enjoying the morning of her first anniversary. She and her husband TSgt. James Sugden, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 100th Operations Group European Tanker Task Force, arrived here from Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.

"I was talking to a customer on the phone and could hear a little girl in the other room ask for some candy," Sugden said. "After I hung up the phone I heard another lady in the office say, 'She's choking.' I peeked around the corner and saw the little girl struggling to breathe. Then I heard the child's mother yell, 'My God, she's choking!' And they started to

pat the little girl on her back in order to dislodge the candy."

The child, McKenzie Schack, is the daughter of Capt. Rod Schack and wife, Tami.

"I was moments away from performing the Heimlich on McKenzie myself," said her father, a 3rd Air Force Intelligence Operations officer, "but as a parent it's different ... sometimes you think too much instead of reacting."

React is exactly what Sugden did.

"I walked over, bent down and put my arms around her and began the Heimlich," Sugden said. "I gave two or three thrusts to her upper chest but nothing was happening."

The bridge of McKenzie's nose began turning blue and the mother of two had to respond quickly knowing time was running out.

"I knew the hospital was across the street," Sugden said. "If one more attempt didn't dislodge the candy, I would have scooped her up in my arms and ran her to the emergency room."

But the last thrust did work. The orange piece of candy shot out of McKenzie's mouth.

"McKenzie started crying," Sugden said. "And my heart started pounding, after the adrenaline rush started to take over."

Sugden said the rest of her Monday afternoon was very quiet compared to the morning.



Courtesy photo

**Rebecca Sugden holds up McKenzie Schack.**

The next day she received yet another surprise from the Schack family. No more choking incidents, just flowers.

"They bought me a bouquet of flowers and thanked me for the kindness I gave to McKenzie," Sugden said.